

**Annual Report**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
FOR THE  
**HONITON RURAL DISTRICT**  
**1919.**

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HONITON :  
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# *Honiton Rural District Council*

*(Health Department).*

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To the Chairman and Members of the Honiton  
Rural District Council.

*January, 1920.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor of presenting to you my Annual Report, and which deals with Public Health matters, and the Sanitary administration of your District during the year 1919.

I am very pleased to be able to report to you that the Birth Rate which, owing to the war, had in 1918 reached the lowest recorded number for this area, viz.: 116 Births, has for this year shown a marked improvement, viz.: 143 Births.

On the other hand I regret to say that the Death Rate has increased, due no doubt to the wave of Influenza and Pneumonia which swept the District in the early part of the year; there being 22 deaths registered from this cause alone out of a total of 123 Deaths.

Infantile Mortality remains the same as 1918, viz.: 4 Deaths under 1 year.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis shew an increase, viz.: 7 as against 5 in 1918, while deaths from Cancer shew a decrease of two, viz.: 10 in 1919, as against 12 in 1918.

During the year great progress has been made with the Housing Schemes, and a full report on this and other matters such as the Isolation Hospital will be dealt with more fully, later on in my Report.

My Report, owing to the Ministry of Health requiring full information of the National and Social Conditions of the Districts, and also the Sanitary Circumstances of the Districts, for this year takes an unusual form, and for the first time includes a Report on the amount of Poor Law Relief in each Parish. For these returns I am indebted to the services of Mr. Chard and Mr. Tilt (Relieving Officers) who have very kindly favoured me with a full report. My thanks are also due to Mr. Redfern, who has so ably helped me to produce a full Report on the Housing Scheme for the District.

## NATIONAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Summary, shewing the principal general items of the Vital Statistics for 1919, contained in this Report.

Area of the Honiton Rural District	...	73,054 acres.
Population at Census, 1911	...	9,597
Estimated Population 1919 for Birth Rate		8,637
,,          ,,          1919 for Death Rate		8,291
Number of Parishes	...	26
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census, 1911		2,263
Average Number of Persons per House, at Census, 1911	...	4·2

## NOTE BY THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE.

The *Birth Rate* (and Marriage Rate) population is intended to include all the elements of the population contributing to the Birth and Marriage Rate. It consists therefore of the Death Rate or civilian population plus all non-civilians enlisted from this country, whether serving at home or abroad. This non-civilian element has been distributed over all the Districts in the country in proportion to their estimated civilian population.

The *Death Rate* population excludes all non-civilian males, whether serving at home or abroad. This is necessary for the purposes of Local Death Rates, because it has proved impossible to transfer the deaths of non-civilian to their areas of residence or to deal in any other satisfactory manner with the local mortality of this element in the population.

These estimates are based mainly upon the rationing returns placed at the Registrar-General's disposal by the Ministry of Food.

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*Physical Features and General Character of the District.*

Purely agricultural, rather hilly, and all the villages being placed in the valleys. Railway facilities are very limited, only two Parishes being near to a Station.

There is no Voluntary Hospital in the District, and most cases have to go to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital at Exeter.

There is attached to the Workhouse a large and commodious Infirmary for pauper cases, containing two male and two female wards, and has accommodation for 18 males, 22 females, and also lying-in wards.



## POOR LAW RELIEF.

Statement of amount of Poor Law Relief  
for the undermentioned Parishes from 1st  
April, 1919, to 31st March, 1920.

PARISHES	M.	F.	C.	Total	No. of Cases	Amount							
						£	s.	d.					
Awliscombe	3	...	6	...	3	...	12	...	6	...	73	16	3
Branscombe	6	...	7	...	7	...	20	...	11	...	182	18	5
Buckerell	3	...	3	...	7	...	13	...	4	...	82	0	0
Combe Raleigh	2	...	2	...	0	...	4	...	2	...	2	16	5
Cotleigh	1	...	1	...	2	...	4	...	2	...	22	19	0
Dunkeswell	1	...	1	...	0	...	2	...	2	...	24	13	6
Farway	1	...	2	...	0	...	3	...	3	...	24	4	6
Gittisham	0	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	2	15	0
Luppitt	3	...	4	...	4	...	11	...	7	...	137	19	3½
Monkton	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	0	0
Northleigh	0	...	1	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	10	14	6
Offwell	1	...	3	...	9	...	13	...	3	...	57	0	0
Sheldon	1	...	1	...	2	...	4	...	1	...	35	13	6
Southleigh	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	0	0
Upottery	3	...	1	...	5	...	9	...	5	...	40	7	6
Widworthy	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	0	0
Yarcombe	3	...	5	...	2	...	10	...	6	...	126	2	7½
	28		38		42		108		55		£824	0	6

N.B.—The above Statement does not include Non-Settled Cases.

E. J. CHARD, R.O.,  
8/4/1920.

Statistical Return of Relief in Ottery St. Mary District of Rural District Parishes from 1st April, 1919, to 31st March, 1920.

PARISH.	Amount in Relief.									Total Persons.		
	£	s.	d.	M.	W.	C.						
Broadhembury	92	0	0	...	1	...	6	...	9	...	16	
Feniton	...	16	9	6	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	3
Harpford	...	47	10	6	...	1	...	3	...	2	...	6
Payhembury	...	133	19	6	...	4	...	4	...	4	...	12
Plymtree	...	45	7	6	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	4
Salcombe Regis	...	24	18	0	...	1	...	2	...	0	...	3
Sidbury	...	332	0	5½	...	8	...	13	...	12	...	33
Talaton	...	44	0	1	...	1	...	3	...	9	...	13
Ven Ottery	...	0	0	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
Totals	£736	5	6½	19	34	37	90					

HERBERT TILT,

Relieving Officer,

15th April, 1920.

Ottery St. Mary.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### (a) BIRTHS.

The registered number of Births was 143, as against 116 in 1918.

77 Boys

66 Girls.

This shows a marked improvement, as our Birth Rate in 1918 was the lowest ever recorded for this District.

It is interesting here to note, in view of the heavy mortality of males in the war, the marked increase of the number of males born as compared with females.

	Boys	Girls
1918	59	57
1919	77	66

The Birth Rate is 16·6 per 1,000 as compared with :—

1916	16·03 per 1,000
1917	14·3 „
1918	12·7 „
1919	16·6 „

*Illegitimate Births.*

There were 7 Births recorded :—

4 Males and 3 Females.

This is the same as in 1918, which is a high percentage for our District.

(b) DEATHS.

*Number and Rate.*

The number of Deaths from all causes registered in the District, 123, viz :—

66 Males            57 Females

This is higher than 1918, when the number of registered deaths was 116.

DEATH RATE.

1916	13·3 per 1,000
1917	15·7 „
1918	14·2 „
1919	13·9 „

There appears here a discrepancy in my figures for 1918 and 1919, but it is due to the fact that the Death Rate was in 1918 estimated on a population of 8,121, and in 1919 on a population of 8,291.



## CAUSES OF DEATH.

	1917	1918	1919
Influenza ....	6	14	15
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	5	7
Other Tubercular Disease	2	2	1
Cancer ....	8	12	10
Meningitis ....	0	1	1
Organic Heart Disease....	20	17	8
Bronchitis ....	10	3	10
Pneumonia ....	6	13	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	4	3
Nephritis and Bright's ....	5	1	7
Congenital Debility ....	2	3	2
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	0	0	1
Violence (not Suicide) ....	4	3	4
Other defined Diseases ....	53	37	46
Unknown ....	0	1	1
	<hr/> 129	<hr/> 116	<hr/> 123

Our Death Rate would have been very low if it had not been for the second wave of Influenza which broke out again in February and March, when practically every house in the district was attacked. The people who were attacked in the Autumn seemed more or less immune from this second wave, and it seemed to spend its force in attacking the children. The deaths recorded from Influenza and Pneumonia amounted to 22 :—

8 Males and 14 Females.

It is impossible in a large, scattered Rural District as ours is, to organise proper nursing in a sudden attack like this. In the first place it is impossible to get nurses, as they are at once swallowed up by the big cities, which generally are the first to succumb: and secondly, you require a nurse to each half-dozen houses, and in Rural areas this is impossible.

In order to protect our district in future, I have obtained from the Ministry of Health a large supply of Influenza Vaccine, which is issued free, and I am ready to distribute this to any practitioner requiring it, and it is understood that practitioners will make no charge to their patients for the vaccine used, since it is supplied to them gratuitously.

I have, at the same time, prepared a series of pamphlets on Influenza, which will be distributed in the district should an outbreak occur.

I am also prepared to visit any part of my district and inoculate, free of charge, any person wishing to be inoculated should an outbreak occur.

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*Infantile Mortality.*

Only 4 deaths were registered of children under 1 year, and I am glad to say that no deaths of illegitimate children occurred.

1917	1918	1919
37·4	34·5	27·9 per 1,000 Births.

This is a considerable improvement on 1918.

Amongst the causes of death calling for comment I think the following need only be referred to, viz :—

Cancer 10

Pulmonary Tuberculosis 7

## CANCER.

Deaths from Cancer show a decrease this year, ten having died from this as against 12 in 1918.

## PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

There is an increase of two deaths viz :—  
7 as compared with 5 in 1918.

I am afraid we must expect an increase in future years, owing to so many men returning from the war with their health irretrievably broken down.

## SICKNESS DURING THE YEAR 1919.

### (a) NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE, EXCLUDING PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

		1919	1918
Measles	....	24	18
Diphtheria	....	1	2
Pneumonia	....	13	Not notifiable.
Erysipelas	....	4	1
Scarlet Fever	....	1	0
Opthal. Neonatorum		2	0
Puerpural Fever		1	0
Tetanus	....	0	1
		<hr/> 46	<hr/> 22

The above shows the number of infectious cases notified during the year, and alongside I have also given the record for 1918 for comparison, but in making a comparison it should be borne in mind that Pneumonia was not a Notifiable Infectious Disease in 1918. Also that, although only 24 cases of Measles were notified, there were numerous cases which were treated at home by their parents never notified.

Notification of Measles has now ceased, and my experience in a Rural District makes me think it was never of any use at all except for large towns.



Looking back through my year's work, I am glad to report that we have again been remarkably free from Infectious Disease, and if we exclude the cases of Measles and Pneumonia, we have had another exceptionally good year in the absence of Infectious Disease.

*Diphtheria* (one case).

The case of Diphtheria occurred at Sid Vale Dairy, Sidford. It was difficult to assign a definite cause, but stringent steps were taken at once to prevent a serious outbreak.

The case was removed to the Isolation Hospital at Roncombe, and the Dairy, &c., thoroughly disinfected, and all Sanitary defects remedied.

I am glad to say the case did very well at the Hospital, and she was able to return to her work after being there from January 18th to February 26th. (The County Council undertake the examination of all diphtheria swabs).

*Scarlet Fever* (one case).

This case occurred at Buckerell, but was of a very mild type and was well isolated, that it was not necessary to remove to the Isolation Hospital.

*Opthal. Neonatorum.*

Two cases were reported, and I am glad to report they both did well under treatment, and no blindness resulted.



*Puerpural Fever.*

This case occurred at Awliscombe, but recovered.

*Small Pox.*

No primary vaccinations and re-vaccinations were performed by me under the Small Pox Prevention Regulations, 1917.

*Rabies and Anthrax.*

No cases reported to me during the year.

*Isolation Hospital.*

This little Hospital, which was established six years ago, has well proved its worth, and although looked upon by some at its birth as a luxury, are now fully satisfied that a district as large as ours cannot be left unprotected any longer. I am certain that in its short career we have been able, by at once removing infectious cases to the Hospital and thereby shutting off at its source all infection, to have saved the District an expenditure of hundreds of pounds in dealing with Infectious Disease.

Looking back through my Statistics I find that since the establishment of this Hospital we have had no epidemic of Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever, which is a strange contrast to the position we occupied before its establishment. There is however one great drawback

to our Hospital, and that is, in the event of cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever occurring simultaneously, we could not possibly admit both cases, and one of them would have to be sent away to Exeter.

The situation of the Hospital is ideal, situated at the head of the Sid Valley, and commanding a view of the sea. It is really wonderful how quickly the patients recover their health and strength. The Hospital has been since its opening under the care and management of Mrs. Johnson, whose praises I cannot too loudly state, for the efficient manner in which she looks after her patients, and the scrupulously clean state in which she keeps the Hospital.

The Isolation Hospital consists of some cottages to which the necessary alterations have been made and accommodation has been provided for six beds, with separate apartments for the caretaker.

There is a Matron Caretaker and her husband in permanent occupation.

Two cases of Diphtheria were treated during the year, both being discharged as cured. One patient entered the Hospital on January 17th and was discharged on February 27th, the second patient entered the Hospital

on September 4th and was discharged October 6th. The expenses of treating both these cases was recovered.

The total expenses in connection with the Hospital for the twelve months was £142 3s. 3d.

Deduct the sum of £34 15s. 7d. received from patients makes a nett cost to the Council of £107 7s. 8d. for the year 1919.

*Tuberculosis.*

	1919.		1918.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8 cases	....	7 cases
Non Pulmonary	1 case	....	4 cases

All Tubercular Cases are dealt with by the County Council, and when cases have not been removed to a Hospital they have been supplied with disinfectants and spittoons by my Sanitary Inspector.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.**

*Staff.*

Consists of an Inspector of Nuisances, who during the war has kept an Assistant. There is sufficient work to be done in the District to always have an Assistant, to release the Inspector to deal with the Housing Scheme. I should here like to congratulate the Inspector on his work during the past year, and especially so with regard to the work he has done with the Housing Scheme.



*Water.*

The Water Supply of this District is obtained from wells except part of the Parishes of Sidbury and Salcombe Regis, which are supplied by the Sidmouth Water Co., and this supply has been good. The remaining part of the District is supplied by means of wells or springs.

IN THE PARISH OF AWLISCOMBE there is a plentiful supply of Water, but as the Dwelling Houses are mostly in the valley, the wells are subject to pollution, and during the past year it has been difficult to get wells properly attended to, as the amount to be expended under the Public Health Act is so small as to make the Act of no avail.

BRANSCOMBE has a plentiful supply of water, but complaints have been received from two occupiers that they cannot obtain sufficient water, and the owner of the water supply, which is near, is not agreeable to accommodate these houses.

BROADHEMBURY VILLAGE. During the past year there has been some difficulty in supplying the village with water, owing to the pipes being considerably corroded from the private supply of the owner, but it is hoped during the present year to remedy this defect. To supply the cottages in this village with water means a great expense.

The property is principally owned by two estates, one of which has already laid down a new supply, and that part of the village is now adequately supplied.

BUCKERELL. The Parish of Buckerell is largely dependent upon a Pump, and there has continually been trouble with the owners sharing the expense of keeping it in repair. This village should have a public supply as there are so many cottages a distance from the pump.

COMBE RALEIGH. The Honiton Town Council obtain water from this parish. There have been no complaints of shortage of water by existing occupiers, but the Housing Scheme for the Rural District is held up and cannot be proceeded with as the sinking of a Well is forbidden in the sale of the land, and the Honiton Town Council refuse to supply the four cottages from their mains. This is a very serious matter for a village like Combe Raleigh, which with a good water supply would rapidly develop, as it is only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Honiton. I hope the Ministry of Health will insist on the Honiton Urban Council doing justice to the village.

NORTHLEIGH. There is a difficulty of obtaining water in the west side of this village. A public supply should be obtained from the hills and conveyed to the village.



SALCOMBE REGIS. The village of Salcombe Regis is inadequately supplied with water. Six samples of water were taken, one sample was good and the other five polluted, and owing to the situation of the property and the defective drainage system, it is impossible to get these Wells pure. The Council now have in hand a Water Scheme which if carried out will remedy this matter.

SHELDON. This Parish being built on the crest of the hill has great difficulty in obtaining water, and some houses have to take a water cart and bring it up from the valley below. It is hoped in connection with the Housing Scheme to provide a supply by means of a ram.

#### *Rivers and Streams.*

The rivers and streams that pass through this District are free from serious pollution, except the River Otter where it is the boundary between Honiton Borough and the Rural District. For a considerable part of the year the Sewage from the Honiton Works is poured into the river. This should be remedied at once.

#### *Drainage and Sewage.*

The Sewage Works at Sidbury and Sidford are satisfactory, and the systems that we have at Sidmouth Junction, Plymtree and Payhem-bury are working fairly well.

A new system of Sewage is now in hand for Salcombe Regis village.

The defective condition of things at Feniton Village should now receive the attention of the Council. Action in connection with this was deferred until the close of the war.

PLYMTREE. The small system that we have at Plymtree only accommodates a few houses. The remainder of the village has a very defective system. This matter can only be dealt with by the construction of proper sewage works and the laying of pipes to the premises.

#### *Closet Accommodation.*

The closet accommodation of the District is largely privies and earth closets. Water closets only being fixed where there is a sewerage system. The privies are gradually being done away with and earth closets put in their places.

Estimated number of privies 1,200.

„ „ earth closets 553.

„ „ water closets 693.

#### *Scavengering.*

Scavengering is only done in the populous part of Salcombe Regis. This was commenced some 9 years ago, and the regulation then drawn up provided for the provision of properly

covered Sanitary Dust Bins, and this we have adhered to. The refuse is collected twice a week and is disposed of on the land.

The cleansing of earth closets, privies, &c., is controlled by Bye Laws, and is the duty of the occupier.

### *Sanitary Inspection of the District.*

Number of Inspections made during the year:—

Number of Visits to Houses	...	220
„ „ Slaughter-houses	...	15
„ „ Bakers	... ..	17
„ „ Schools	... ..	12
„ „ Sewerage Works	...	185

### RESULTS.

Water supplies improved	... ..	19
Houses repaired and whitewashed	...	21
New Drains laid	... ..	18
Drains repaired	... ..	22
Closets repaired	... ..	9
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	1
Informal Notices (by letter)	... ..	22
Informal Notices (verbal)	... ..	43
Interviews with owners or agents	...	22

### HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Number of houses visited (Section 17)	...	35
Dangerous and Injurious	... ..	13
Representations to L.A.	... ..	13
Closing Orders made	... ..	Nil
Notice under Section 15	... ..	Nil
Remedied with Closing Orders	...	Nil
Remedied without Closing Orders	...	3
Demolition Orders made	... ..	Nil

*Premises and Occupations Controlled by Bye Laws.*

We have no houses let in lodgings, and no offensive trades, and no underground sleeping rooms.

SCHOOLS. The Sanitary condition of the Schools is fair, and pail closets are provided. The work is carried out fairly satisfactorily, but it has been necessary to call the attention of the Managers in several cases to the necessity of limewashing these places more frequently. The Water Supply is not always of the best, and the School at Sheldon has no adequate water supply at all.

FOOD. *Milk Supply.* The milk supply in this District has usually been done by the Farmers supplying their immediate neighbours. Nearly all the milk in normal times being made into butter. During the war a large number of farmers have commenced to sell milk, and it is now proposed by the Council to enforce the Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops Orders.

In only one case has a Certificate been granted by the Ministry of Health for Grade A Milk, and this is sold by Mr. Hennings, Broadhembury.

No special action has been taken to deal with Tuberculous Milk or other Foods.



OTHER FOODS. Inspections have been made in the retail shops for other Foods, and no cause for complaint has been found.

MEAT INSPECTIONS. The Slaughter-houses have been visited and no serious cause of complaint has arisen, and about 50lbs. of Meat have been condemned and destroyed.

## HOUSING.

As a result of the Inspections which have been made up to date, it is estimated that in this District there are 1,589 cottages. Of that number 146 are past repair; 832 have only two bedrooms; 538 cottages three bedrooms and 73 have four bedrooms; the majority of them are old cob, stone and thatch, are generally damp with low ceilings and small windows.

The Council were of the opinion when they first commenced to consider the Housing question that 10% of the existing accommodation would meet the needs of the District, but the number of houses proposed to be built at the present time is 198 on 40 sites. If the standard of houses as laid down in the Housing Manual number two is adhered to, this number will not be anywhere near sufficient.

### AWLISCOMBE.

Total number of houses 119. Population 419.

Number proposed to be built—8, four on each side of the village.



## BRANSCOMBE.

Total number of houses 194. Population 606.

Number proposed to be built 12, two in the village,  
6 near the blacksmith's shop, and 4 at the  
fountain head.

The Vicar states that a number of young people cannot get married as there are no cottages vacant, but there are cottages held by visitors who only occupy them in the summer.

## BROADHEMBURY.

Total number of cottages 147. Population 611.

Number proposed to be built 10, two at Crammer  
Ash, four at Colliton, and 4 near the village.

## BUCKERELL.

Total number of houses 59. Population 214.

Total number proposed to be built 6.

This Village has a number of dilapidated cottages which are untenable, it is therefore proposed to take six of the existing old cottages, three of which are tenanted, to bring two of these up to the standard, demolish the remainder and erect four new ones.

## COMBE RALEIGH.

Total number of houses 47. Population 209.

Number proposed to be built 4.

The scheme for this village is at present at a standstill, as the owner of the land places a restriction upon its sale that no well shall be sunk, and the Honiton Town Council refuse to allow their mains to be tapped.

## COTLEIGH.

Total number of houses 37. Population 160.

Number proposed to be built 4.

This parish is suffering a shortage owing to two cottages being converted into one house for a Poultry Farm. I think in this Parish the Council should build 8 cottages instead of 4.

## DUNKESWELL.

Total number of houses 79. Population 330.

Number proposed to be built 10.

Negotiations have been very protracted in this Parish owing to the difficulties raised in obtaining a site. It is desired to obtain about four acres in the village and erect six cottages, the remainder to be used as extra garden and an open space or pleasure ground. Four houses are to be erected at Dunkeswell Abbey.

## FARWAY.

Total number of houses 63. Population 232.

Number proposed to be built 12.

## FENITON.

Total number of houses 90. Population 372.

Number proposed to be built 8.

No site has yet been settled on as the Committee are awaiting developments at Colestocks.

## GITTISHAM.

Total number of houses 83. Population 348.

Number proposed to be built 8.

No site has yet been finally agreed on for this Parish. The Agent for the Combe Estate raises objections to sites near the village, and offers one which is much too far away.

## HARPFORD.

Total number of houses 54. Population 201.

Number proposed to be built 4.

Site has been settled and house plans approved.

## LUPPITT.

Total number of houses 120. Population 441.

Number proposed to be built 8, and one to be repaired.

It is proposed to build two near the schools, four at Shelf, and two at Wick.

Site agreed on and house plans approved.

The Committee also propose to take over a dilapidated cottage at Wick and bring this up to the standard.

Compulsory powers are being used to obtain the land at Shelf.

## MONKTON.

Number proposed to be built 4. Population 132.

Compulsory powers are being used to obtain a site.

There are very few cottages in this Parish, two of them have been converted into a farmhouse in place of one that was burnt down, and two others have also been made into one farmhouse. This is quite inadequate, and I strongly advise the Council to build at least 12 houses in this District.

## NORTHLEIGH.

Total number of houses 46. Population 167.

Number proposed to be built 4.

The site is not yet settled. The question of water should be taken into consideration in conjunction with a public supply for that side of the village.

## OFFWELL.

Total number of houses 64. Population 278.

Number of houses to be built 4.

The site is agreed upon and the house plans submitted.

As there is a possibility of having a difficulty with the water, a joint scheme with the owner of the estate would be an advantage to the Housing Scheme.

## PAYHEMBURY.

Total number of houses 101. Population 428.

Number proposed to be built 6.

This site is agreed on, and house plans approved.

## PLYMTREE.

Total number of houses 98. Population 398.

Number proposed to be built 8.

The site is agreed on and house plans submitted. It is also proposed to take over six cottages which are in a bad state of repair, and are too congested, and to remove part of them and bring the remainder up to the standard.

The shortage of houses is being increased by several cottages being altered to make one dwellinghouse.

This Parish asked for cottages seven years ago, but as the Council decided to place a charge on the Parish, the scheme was dropped and nothing further done in the matter.

## SALCOMBE REGIS.

Total number of houses 128. Population 541.

Number proposed to be built 8.

Four to be erected near the village and four at Sid. Before the village scheme is carried out the proposed water and sewerage works must also be done. The site is agreed upon and plans approved. This number is inadequate, and should be at least doubled.

## SHELDON.

Total number of houses 27. Population 117.

Number proposed to be built 4.

Site agreed upon and plans submitted.

This scheme is dependant upon an adequate water supply being arranged, which would also supply the surrounding premises.

## SIDBURY.

Total number of houses 352. Population 1,374.

Number of houses to be built 24.

Site agreed upon and house plans approved. Situation is between Sidford and Sidbury, and is convenient for sewerage and water.

This is quite inadequate and another 24 should be built.

## SOUTHLEIGH.

Total number of houses 54. Population 196.

Number of houses to be built 4.

Site agreed upon and house plans approved.

## TALATON.

Number of houses 162. Population 419.

Number proposed to be built 6.

The site for these cottages have been generously given by Sir John Kennaway, Bart., in memory of his father, the late Sir John. The house plans have been approved.

## UPOTTERY.

Total number of houses 153. Population 574.

Number of houses to be built 12.

Sites have been agreed upon for 6 cottages in the village, two at Rawridge, and four at Smeatharp. Sites approved and house plans approved.



VENN OTTERY.

Total number of houses 18. Population 81.

Number proposed to be built 4.

Site not yet agreed upon.

There are very few cottages in this Parish, the work people living in the adjoining parishes of Harpford or Ottery St. Mary, the new cottages will relieve the pressure in these places.

WIDWORTHY.

Total number of houses 33. Population 148.

Number of houses to be built 2.

Site agreed upon and house plans approved.

This is inadequate, and 4 more cottages should be built.

YARCOMBE.

Total number of houses 136. Population 599.

Number proposed to be built 12.

Most of the land in this Parish is held by small holders, and it is felt that as the workmen are not in continual employment of one master that he ought to have extra land to fill in his time, and the proposal is to give as near as possible an acre of land to each cottage.

Sites not yet agreed upon. It is proposed to build 8 cottages near the village and 4 at the Hamlet of Marsh.

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No action has been taken with unhealthy areas this being a Rural District.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

DUNCOMBE STEELE-PERKINS,

*Medical Officer of Health,*

*Honiton Rural District Council.*